



**ADD A LITTLE PEACH
PIZZAZZ
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RECIPES** {page 21}

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SIU SAYS G20
TAKEDOWN WAS
ASSAULT** {page 11}



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POLICE LOOKING
INTO LILO REHAB
INCIDENT DISH** {page 18}



OTTAWA

metro®

Wednesday, December 22, 2010
www.metronews.ca



News worth
sharing.

Conroy Pit. Toboggan



► Ottawa resident Harry Snowboy and his son Baboo scream with glee as they slide down the hill at Conroy Pit yesterday.

MARC DESROSIER/FOR METRO

Ain't no toboggan hill too high

The National Capital Commission opened its two toboggan hills in the Greenbelt earlier this week. The hills are located at Conroy Pit and Bruce Pit.

**Life is
beautiful**

Afghan comic finds humour
amidst tragedy {page 9}

**Stuff research
in your stocking**

Paul Sullivan on the grinch
who steal Christmas {page 14}

**Boy's life
claimed
in Rideau**

► Paramedics warn residents away from ice-covered
and open waterways ► River current carried boy away
from friend after fateful fall from shore



SEAN
MCKIBBIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Neighbours of a nine-year-old drowning victim yesterday recalled the boy as "nice," "cute" and "always smiling."

The boy, who lived with his mother, father and younger sister in a third-floor apartment on Wiggins Private, had been playing with a friend on the shore of the Rideau River when he fell in the icy water and drowned yesterday.

Firefighters received an emergency call at 2:02 p.m. after the victim's friend ran for help.

Sixteen minutes later, the drowning boy was pulled from the water near Strathcona Park by firefighters who were able to reach him using a specialized ice boat and a regular watercraft. Their efforts, tragically, would be in vain.

Firefighters pulled the boy from the water about 800 metres downstream from where he fell in. Finding no vital signs on the boy, firefighters and paramedics attempted to resuscitate the boy immediately,

"It was just a slip at river's side, according to the young boy, and (the victim) drifted away on the current."

OTTAWA POLICE SGT. PAUL BATISTA

ly, said Ottawa paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier. The boy was taken to hospital without vital signs and was declared dead 40 minutes after arriving at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

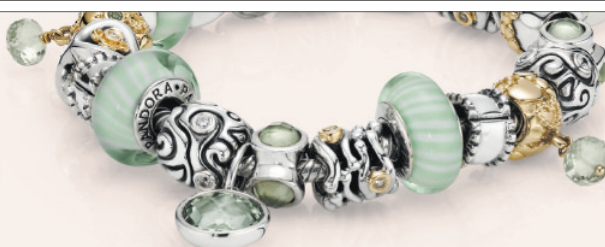
Investigators were interviewing witnesses yesterday evening. The death is not being treated as suspicious, said Ottawa police Sgt. Paul Batista.

Batista said the police would not release the name of the victim until the boy's parents had been notified, and only then with the family's permission.

"We need to warn parents and kids to just stay away from icy surfaces, ponds, water, lakes. Stay away from the shore even, because it's slippery and muddy and wet. Stay away completely from any waterways, icy or not," said Trottier.



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Fleury touts community LRT

Proposed light-rail stations connect shopping malls, not communities, and may do little to attract riders, some city councillors said.

"It's mall to mall — we're not going into Lower-town, we're not going into Sandy Hill," said Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury, following an update yesterday at city hall on

preliminary engineering work on the light-rail project.

Geotechnical survey work on a proposed light-rail route has begun, but Fleury said he thinks there may still be room for changes. The current engineering work is based on a route approved earlier this year, on Jan. 13, by the last

"The big downfall of our current transit system is it doesn't affect communities. It's mall to mall."

RIDEAU-VANIER
COUN. MATHIEU FLEURY

city council.
City staff giving the engi-

neering update said the locations of LRT stations had been based on detailed data on ridership.

"People will easily walk up to 800 metres to access a station," said Nancy Schepers, deputy city manager. "A lot of work has been done on maximizing capture."

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 4
● SEAN MCKIBBON



► Mathieu Fleury

Looking to greener pastures in 2011

► Use of green bins will help extend the life of the city's landfills and meet provincial targets: Chair



TRACEY TONG
@METRONEWS.CA

The City of Ottawa needs to talk to residents to boost its waste-diversion rates to the next level, said the chair of the environment committee yesterday.

"In the new year, this council must have a dialogue with our residents," said River Ward Coun. Maria McRae.

"We have to talk about how do we get more diversion. Why, for example, are we not picking up the green bin every week? We have people ready to do it but we're not doing it right now ... It's very important to start that discussion."

"We also have to talk about what we do with our partners such as the schools," said McRae. "The schools would love to par-

"We need to have that discussion in the new year."

COUN. MARIA MCRAE ON EXPANDING THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM

ticipate in green bins, so we have to talk about pilot opportunities for our kids to start composting in school."

Approaching the one-year anniversary of the city's green bin program, residents have helped divert 53,000 tonnes of organic waste from the landfill, said McRae.

This means residents have increased the city's overall diversion rate from 32 per cent to 41 per cent in one year — the biggest jump since the blue and black box recycling programs were introduced.

"A significant amount of waste is no longer going to our landfill," said McRae.



► Environment committee chair Maria McRae encourages residents to keep using the green bins over the holiday season.



U.S. man gets nearly 20 years in prison for sex abuse at Italian school. Scan code for the story.

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On the web:

Why leaks, Wiki and otherwise, are critical for a functioning democracy. More at metronews.ca/spinductor

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December 28, 2010

FUN WITH THE SUN

Dr. Joan Haysom, Manager, Solar Projects

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Dr. Joseph-Marie De Koninck, School of Psychology

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Marion Hall Auditorium
140 Louis Pasteur



Shorten LRT tunnel, officials say

Ottawa's light-rail tunnel will likely need to be shortened to deal with a deeper than expected bedrock, officials working on the project said yesterday.

"The bedrock near the University of Ottawa is two to 10 metres deeper than anticipated and that's why the team suggested shortening the tunnel and coming to the surface sooner," said Gary Craig, the city's chief of rail, engineering and construction. Craig and other officials at city hall presented an update on preliminary engineering work on the light-rail project.

Craig said shortening the 3.2-kilometre tunnel by as much as 900 metres will save some of the projected \$700-million cost of the project.

Fault lines detected in the downtown core by the light-rail team were antici-

"Nothing has been encountered that would affect the technical feasibility of the project or the project cost estimate."

JOHN JENSON, DIRECTOR OF RAIL IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE

pated and can be dealt with using standard engineering techniques, Craig said.

Spots where ground conditions differ from projections will be studied in Phases 2 and 3 of the preliminary geotechnical survey, said John Jenson, director of the city's rail implementation office. The second phase of the survey is set to go ahead in the spring of 2011 and updated results will be posted to the website, ottawalightrail.ca.

SEAN MCKIBBON

Students take short end of holiday stick



► "I don't need to take time off, I'd rather just make the extra money in case I need to buy something," said Tusmo Mohamed.

► Juggling work and family replaces studying during the holidays



JOE LOFARO
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

The holidays are usually when most people relax, take time off work, and not think about the office.

But for many young people like Marita Cockburn, the holidays mean more shifts and extra cash.

The American Apparel employee will be working on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day to earn more money, but her co-worker Erin will be going out of town for Christmas.

"I wouldn't want her to be stuck here because I refuse to work on Christmas Eve out of convenience," said Cockburn.

Cash-strapped students also jump at the chance to earn extra cash when not in class.

"Going back is more important to me. I want to go home."

ERIN KOTH

"I finished exams last week so I'm working more on holidays to get more pocket money," said Tusmo Mohamed.

Justin Louie, 25, feels he has no choice but to work over the holidays.

"When you're management, you have to work a lot more around this time of year," he said.

"Obviously, relaxing would be a lot better," he added.



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STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO



► Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli credited the McGuinty government with "the largest and successful infrastructure program in the history of Ontario."

Chiarelli takes swipe at Tories on infrastructure

► Completed projects include 69 rinks and arenas, 79 parks, and 14 bridges ► Queensway Carleton, Montfort and CHEO are among local hospitals benefitting from recent infrastructure spending

Ontario Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli touted his government's investments in hospitals and other infrastructure while aiming partisan jabs at the Progressive Conservatives in a campaign-style appearance in Ottawa yesterday.

Speaking at Queensway Carleton Hospital, which is undergoing a \$130-million expansion, Chiarelli said over 700 projects were completed this year and announced a new 10-year

\$60B

Total infrastructure spending by the Ontario government since 2005-06.

infrastructure plan, to ensure stable funding for new projects, will be unveiled in spring.

He also drew sharp contrasts between the Liberals and the Tories.

"The previous govern-

ment closed 28 hospitals over eight years, and our government built 18 new hospitals across the province in six years," he said.

Tory Nepean-Carleton MPP Lisa MacLeod accused Chiarelli of re-fighting old battles to deflect attention from his own government's record.

"They really lose credibility every time they come out and pick a fight with Mike Harris," she said. ● STEVE COLLINS

HEALTH

Blood donations in demand

With Christmas and Boxing Day falling on the weekend this year, Canadian Blood Services is under additional pressure to collect donations.

With holiday days being pushed back, it means less time to collect the donations the Ottawa area is estimated to need between Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

"We simply need more Canadians ... to donate blood, particularly the weeks before and the week after Christmas."

MARK DONNISON,
CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

"We need 3,578 additional people on top of the people who have already made appointments," said Canadian Blood Services spokeswoman Ann Luu. "It's always harder to get blood donations around the holiday

season," added Luu.

"People either go away or have things to do, and are pushing it to the month following."

When donating blood, Luu said donors should watch their alcohol intake at holiday parties the night before.

"When you drink, you dehydrate, and you can't donate when you're dehydrated," she said.

Canadian Blood Services recommends limiting alcohol intake, drinking lots of water and getting eight to 10 hours of sleep the night before giving blood.

● TRACEY TONG

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Condom use still wrong: Vatican

► Statement says comments were misunderstood ► Pope still opposes condoms for contraception

The Vatican yesterday sought to clarify the Pope's controversial comments about condoms and HIV, saying he by no means suggested condom use could be condoned as a means of avoiding pregnancy.

The Vatican's moral watchdog, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a statement saying some commentators had misrepresented the pope's remarks in a book-length interview released last month entitled *Light of the World*.

The Vatican statement stressed that Benedict was not talking about sex between husband and wife or condom use as a form of

Comments

Reports of the Pope's comments had been greeted with relief among AIDS activists working on the front lines in Africa.

► In the book Benedict said that condom use in some cases, such as for male prostitutes, could be a first step toward a more moral and responsible human sexuality.

contraception.

His comments in *Light of the World* had signalled to many a shift in the Pope's thinking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe. Chaos



► Hundreds of people queue outside St Pancras Station in London for the Eurostar train to France yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LEWIS WHITLY

Stranded in London

Major delays and cancellations persisted at European airports, leaving thousands stranded across Europe as Christmas approaches. Heathrow Airport told infuriated passengers it won't restore full service until Thursday.

Teens charged in alleged sex assault

Two 15-year-old boys are facing charges after a young woman was allegedly raped while she was passed out at a Calgary light-rail transit station.

Police say the assault happened early Sunday morning after train service had ended for the day.

Staff Sgt. Dave Louie, a police spokesman, says two boys were at the station platform in the city's southwest when they came across the woman.

Louie says one of them acted as a lookout while the second suspect allegedly attacked the female.

The assault was not caught on a surveillance system that monitors LRT stations 24 hours a day, but a struggle between the woman and one of the suspects was.

The boys have been remanded in custody until their next court appearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assange complains about leak

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is complaining that someone leaked a Swedish police report on his alleged sexual offences.

"The leak of the police report ... was clearly designed to undermine my bail application. It was timed to come up on the

Wanted

Swedish officials want to question Assange about allegations stemming from encounters with two women in Sweden. They accused him of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion. Assange has not been charged.

desk of the judge that morning," Assange said in an interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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East Coast battered again

► Latest Atlantic storm causes flooding, widespread power outages

The third major storm to slam into the East Coast this month caused coastal flooding yesterday that submerged roads and wharfs in eastern New Brunswick.

Around the Atlantic region, powerful wind gusts left thousands without electricity and a combination of wind and heavy seas sidelined ferry traffic between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

In New Brunswick, the Emergency Measures Organization said much of

"It's very important ... that people take into consideration their health and safety and they heed the recommendations to go to higher ground."

NEW BRUNSWICK PREMIER DAVID ALWARD

the province's eastern coastline from Shediac to Miramichi was experiencing flooding and some coastal roads were closed.

Environment Canada was predicting a storm surge of between 2.6 and three metres along the

eastern coast. Meghan Cumby, an EMO official, said last night that some people had voluntarily left their homes in the Rexton and Richibucto areas.

New Brunswick Premier David Alward said that residents had been advised to

prepare their properties and themselves for a possible evacuation.

Alward said he has never experienced such a series of flooding events in his province over his lifetime.

The EMO in New Brunswick reported that some areas were getting wind gusts in excess of 100 kilometres per hour.

Localized coastal flooding was also reported elsewhere, including parts of northern Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Israel. Rocket



► Israeli police officers examine a rocket, fired by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip, after it landed in a kibbutz yesterday south of Ashkelon, Israel.

TSAFIR ABAYOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence flares up again

Violence is escalating along the Israeli-Gaza border, with the Israeli air force striking seven suspected militant sites in Gaza, and Palestinian militants sending a rocket into southern Israel.

Pacific storms pound California

Rescuers pulled motorists from swamped cars and found hikers trapped by a swollen creek, as Pacific storms dumped more rain yesterday on saturated California and forecasters warned of a likely intensification before it all ends.

Virtually the entire state has been affected by the storms that began Friday, dumping moisture from far Northern California south to San Diego. More than 30 centimetres of rain have fallen in parts of the Santa Monica Mountains in the

13 Centimetres of rain in downtown Los Angeles since Friday, more than one-third of the average annual precipitation.

south, and four metres of snow have accumulated at Mammoth Mountain ski resort.

The National Weather Service predicted an even fiercer storm would roll in to Southern California beginning last night that could cause flash flooding in some areas.

At the eastern end of the San Gabriel mountains, about 15 people were evacuated Monday after the Sheep Creek Wash overflowed and threatened homes, fire officials told the Los Angeles Times.

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Canada ranks high in cancer survival rates

- ▶ Study looked at four cancers, six countries
- ▶ Australia, Sweden also near top

A comparison of cancer survival rates in six developed countries puts Canada in the top three, alongside Australia and Sweden, and ahead of Norway, Denmark and the U.K. The study, initiated in the United Kingdom and published online yesterday in *The Lancet*, examined survival rates for breast, lung, colorectal and ovarian cancer in 12 jurisdictions in the six countries.

"The main reason to look at these countries in relation to us is that they're countries of com-

Data

The study involved data for 2.4 million adults diagnosed with primary cancer from 1995 to 2007. The four Canadian provinces that provided information were Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

parable wealth and very good quality information on cancer incidence, mortality and survival," said Terrence Sullivan, president and CEO of Cancer Care

Ontario.

"The value for us is really to see how we're doing as a benchmark with the other jurisdictions."

Senior author Dr. Heather Bryant described the findings as good news for Canadians.

"What's been found is there really is a difference across the countries, and that Canada and Australia and Sweden really came out faring the best for five-year survival, which of course is very good news for cancer patients here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Football. To politics



▶ Newly appointed senator and former CFL player Larry Smith announces his candidacy for the next federal elections yesterday in Montreal, as Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis looks on.

PAUL CHASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator announces next move

The Tories are hoping Senator Larry Smith can wrest the Montreal riding of Lac-Saint-Louis away from the Liberals and help them in their push for a majority government. Smith played for the CFL's Alouettes and had two spells as president of the team sandwiched around a stint as publisher of the *Montreal Gazette*.

Daughter bitter over scandals

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's daughter has said in a magazine interview that she feels bitter about the sex scandals that have engulfed her father. Barbara Berlusconi told the Italian editions of *Vanity Fair* that she believes the scandals have had an impact on her father's public life as well as private life.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil adds women to cabinet

Brazil's first female president-elect has chosen at least eight women for her cabinet, saying she wants to give them a place in her administration commensurate with their contributions to society.

President-elect Dilma Rousseff has filled 30 of 34 positions. She takes office Jan. 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Nothing to hide,' says Kosovo PM

Kosovo's Prime Minister said yesterday he wants an independent investigation to "dispel the mist" surrounding allegations he led a gang that murdered detainees to sell their kidneys.

Hashim Thaci told The Associated Press in an interview he has "nothing to hide."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JONATHAN MONTPETIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► Majajo is also inspired by Rowan Atkinson as Mr. Bean.

Seeing the funny side of Afghanistan

► Successful comedian and taxi driver inspired by Charlie Chaplin ► Braves Taliban death threats

In one of the most dangerous cities in the world, there is a man with a plastic face and a baritone voice who laughs as he stares down the miseries of war.

And others laugh with him.

He is known affectionately as Majajo, and he is the biggest name in Kandahar comedy.

Parts Jim Carrey, Weird Al Yankovic, Jerry Seinfeld and Charlie Chaplin, he is a sort of Everyman for Kandahar's downtrodden.

Kandahar city may be a citizen's nightmare, but it is a comedian's dream.

"I want to make people

"My goal is to make the people of Afghanistan laugh even though all around people are killing each other."

MAJAJO, COMEDIAN

laugh to help them take their mind off things for a while," Majajo, 32, said during a recent interview.

Majajo doesn't really have a standup routine, as there are no comedy clubs in Kandahar. But he has released a series of audio cassettes, which feature his impressions, songs and

jokes.

He regularly does wedding gigs and much of his fame is based on weekly television appearances.

His routine includes impressions of a BBC news anchor, a cooking show host and a flickering light bulb. He even has a joke set in an airplane, even though he has never actually been on one.

Majajo's ability to connect with his audiences comes in part from his proximity to their reality. Despite being one of the most recognizable faces in Kandahar, he drives a taxi to make ends meet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNGARY

Protesters oppose limits on media

Hungary's parliament approved a contentious new law yesterday that will greatly expand the state's power to monitor and penalize private media, drawing protests from opposition parties and civil society.

The measure empow-

ers a recently created new authority, to issue heavy fines for printed, electronic and online media if it determines that coverage is unbalanced, infringes upon human dignity, offends common morals, or fails to cover events of public interest.

However, opposition party Politics Can Be Different said the law would merely cement the government's "media monopoly."

A peaceful demonstration against the new law took place near parliament Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops probe explosive at mine

A police investigation is underway after an explosive — ammonium nitrate — was poured into the gas tank of a contractor's bulldozer at a Vale mine in Sudbury, Ont.

The discovery was made in September after the piece of equipment wouldn't start.

Police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Man charged in kids' deaths

CRIME. Police say an Edmonton man has been charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of two young children.

The 31-year-old has been in custody since he was picked up by officers at an Edmonton town-house late Sunday night.

Police were called in to check on the well-being of the children but found them dead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court upends Tories' victory

ELECTIONS. The Ontario Court of Appeal has overturned a campaign financing victory by the federal Conservatives over Elections Canada.

The court ruled that campaign spending limits are a key tool to ensure Canada's "egalitarian model of elections" and cannot be upended with-

out Parliament's consent.

The decision overturns a court victory by the Conservative Fund Canada that allowed the federal party to rewrite its 2004 and 2006 election accounts, effectively raising Conservative campaign spending limits both past and future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japan braces for tsunami

NATURAL DISASTER. A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.4 has struck in the Pacific Ocean, triggering a tsunami warning off the southern coast of Japan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico's triple tragedy



A daughter, her mother and a brother-in-law are dead in a Mexican city terrorized by drug violence. Scan code for the story.

Cancer faker put under house arrest

► Woman to be confined 24 hours a day for 3 months, and overnight for another 3 months ► Court also recommended community service with cancer society

A 21-year-old woman who faked cancer to defraud people in northern Ontario was handed six months of house arrest yesterday, with special provisions made after she told court she's pregnant.

Jessica Ann Leeder admitted in court last month that she defrauded co-workers at a Ford dealership of more than \$5,000. She pretended to have lung and stomach cancer for close to a year, while accepting support, including money, from the community.

Although Leeder faced a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison, the Crown indicated before yesterday's sentencing hearing that Leeder would not face



► Jessica Ann Leeder, shown in this undated photo, was sentenced to six months of house arrest yesterday.

significant jail time.

"I'm very sorry for the actions I've done and I want the chance to make things right," Leeder, who had pleaded guilty to fraud over \$5,000, told Judge

Martin Lambert yesterday.

The judge noted Leeder spent "five hard days" in jail and took the guilty plea into account, saying it showed remorse.

Leeder told the court she

Bogus cause

► Leeder's case made waves in the northern Ontario city of Timmins, with some people last month saying they couldn't believe a local woman was charged in a cancer scam so soon after Ashley Kirilow of Burlington, Ont., pleaded guilty to a similar ruse.

► And just weeks after that, Toronto police charged a man with fraud after he allegedly pretended to have terminal brain cancer. Police say friends of Christopher Gordon, 29, organized a fundraiser and collected \$3,000.

is pregnant — the Crown said it could not verify that claim — and the sentence was tailored to the medical needs of an expectant mother.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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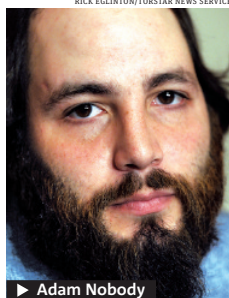
Cop charged in controversial G20 arrest

► Toronto officer faces assault with a weapon charge in arrest of protester ► Court date set for Jan. 24

The violent arrest of a G20 protester that was caught on video and caused controversy when no officers were initially held responsible has resulted in a criminal charge.

Toronto police Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani was charged yesterday with assault with a weapon in the takedown of Adam Nobody at the Ontario legislature in the June summit.

A video of the arrest shows people running from police in riot gear and at least five officers chasing Nobody. He is swarmed and at least one officer can be seen making a punching motion. Nobody was treated in hospital for a fracture



► Adam Nobody

below his right eye.

The SIU originally concluded there appeared to be an excessive use of force, but that it was impossible to tell the identity of the officer from the video.

But the SIU reopened its

investigation after Toronto police Chief Bill Blair suggested in an interview the police were arresting a violent armed offender, and a segment depicting the use of a weapon had been removed from the tape.

Blair apologized later, saying there was no evidence there was any "intent to mislead" with the video.

Toronto police then gave the SIU the name of one more witness police officer, who then identified Const. Andalib-Goortani.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



To view the video of the G20 arrest, go to metronews.ca

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2010

Wireless only is new norm: Study

► Young people leading evolution away from landline phones ► Shift to cellphones having a wide impact

In a first for any age group, more than half of Americans age 25-29 live in households with cellphones but no traditional landline telephones.

A report on phone use by the U.S. federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also found that the younger children are, the likelier they are to live in homes that only have wireless phones. That suggests that younger parents are showing increasing comfort relying only on cellphones, even as they adjust from being single to a more settled family lifestyle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Landline-less

► Overall, 27 per cent of U.S. households had only cellphones in the first half of this year, up two percentage points since the last half of 2009.

► Among 25- to 29-year-olds, 51 per cent lived in homes with only cellphone service in the first half of 2010. That was up two percentage points from the previous six-month period.

► For both age groups bracketing them — 18- to 24-year-olds, and 30- to 34-year-olds — four in 10 lived in cell-only households.

Lunar. Eclipse



► A composite image of the moon during a total lunar eclipse seen from Bobcaygeon, Ont., yesterday.

ADRIEN VECZAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moon eclipses solstice

The moon took on a deep red and brownish hue early yesterday as its normal brilliance was obscured by a total lunar eclipse. It occurred on the same night as the winter solstice, which doesn't happen very often. NASA says the last time the two events coincided was in 1638 — 372 years ago.

240

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Pace of inflation moderates

► November reversed trend of rising inflation established since July

The pace of inflation in Canada eased to an annual rate of two per cent last month as the prices of most consumer goods either saw a moderation in growth or outright declines from last year.

After a surprising spurt in October to an annualized rate of 2.4 per cent, inflation as measured by the consumer price index now appears headed back to moderate levels.

And November's figures from Statistics Canada also likely eliminated whatever concern Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney might have had that keeping interest rates at such historic lows much longer would trigger a sharp rise in prices. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

November rates

(previous month in brackets)

- Newfoundland and Labrador **2.2** (3.0)
- Prince Edward Island **1.2** (2.3)
- Nova Scotia **2.2** (2.9)
- New Brunswick **1.4** (1.8)
- Quebec **1.1** (1.4)
- Ontario **3.0** (3.4)
- Manitoba **1.1** (1.2)
- Saskatchewan **2.0** (2.1)
- Alberta **0.1** (1.2)
- British Columbia **2.2** (2.4)

Skin. A-ma-rink



► Victoria Eisermann, a campaigner from PETA, is chased by ice rink security as she demonstrates as a nearly naked fox in London, yesterday.

PETA fox bares skin

Demonstrators took to the ice rink to highlight their campaign against wearing animal skins. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) argues that the fur trade business causes unnecessary suffering to animals.

Monitoring of oilsands slammed

PAWEŁ DWULITZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS



"There is clearly a lack of leadership and co-ordination"

ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, OIL SANDS ADVISORY PANEL CHAIR

minister launched a separate revamping of the monitoring system just this week.





THE CANADIAN PRESS

A high-level advisory panel has told Ottawa and Alberta to put politics aside and set up a world-class environmental monitoring system for the Alberta oilsands.

But within hours of the release of the panel's report urging the two governments to iron out their jurisdictional issues, there were already signs of federal-provincial friction.

In Ottawa, federal Environment Minister John Baird said he would start implementing the panel's recommendations immediately. But in Edmonton, Premier Ed Stelmach suggested Alberta should take the lead. Indeed, his provincial environment

Market moment

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STUFF THIS RESEARCH IN A STOCKING

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN



'Tis a few days before Christmas and the Grinch is on the prowl.

Turns out the Grinch is a team at Simon Fraser University that has published the following anti-Christmas research: "Identity moderates the effects of Christmas displays on mood, self-esteem, and inclusion."

According to the professors and their grad student Grinch accomplices, their research shows that "the pervasive presence of Christmas displays in December makes people who do not celebrate Christmas feel like they don't belong, and it harms their emotional well-being."

For those of us struggling to breathe under a seasonal

avalanche of Bing Crosby, this is nothing new, but the closer you look at the actual experiment, the more you have to ask: Don't these guys have anything better to do?

Here's what they did — they put one group of students in a lab decorated with a 12-inch Christmas tree and another group in a lab with no tree. Then they asked them how they felt.

Subjects didn't know they were in a study on the psychological effects of Christmas trees, but were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their mood.

Moods varied depending on the presence of the tree and the background of the respondents. In the presence of the tree, Sikh and Buddhist respondents felt less sure about themselves and

felt excluded from the university. Christian students reported a more positive mood.

Putting aside questions about the research (maybe 12-inch plastic trees are culturally depressing. Maybe Sikh and Buddhist students require much bigger trees to feel good?), this just encourages the brand of self-righteousness that blights the yuletide season annually.

Some killjoy kicks Christmas out of the mall in case someone might feel excluded.

And now they've got research to back them up. "Studies show ..." they'll proclaim, ignoring the fact it's one study and one tree.

I wonder what would happen if the team put its subjects through the Halloween test. Or the Thanksgiving test.

At some level, they're all reli-

gious festivals, but they are also festivals.

I'm in favour of festivals.

Thanks to multiculturalism, we keep adding them to the calendar: Hanukkah; Kwanzaa; Diwali; Narooz. If we keep this up, we can have a parade every day of the year. And how good is that?

The point is to use festivals to include people, not exclude them. We all believe different things, but if there's one belief that unites us all, it's simply this: Festivals are fun.

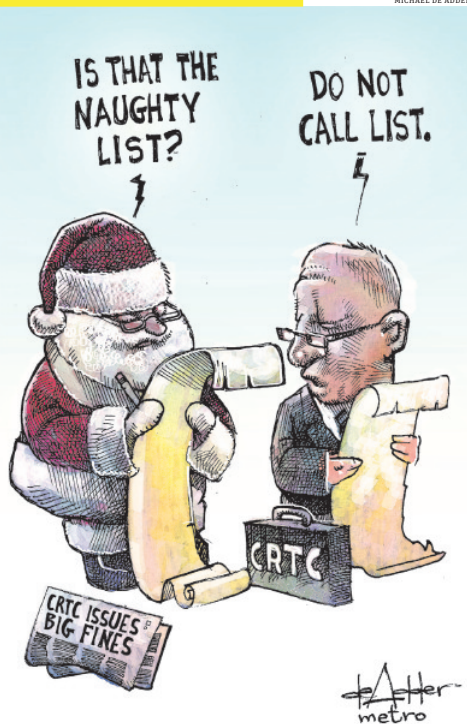
So, without prejudice, I offer the following greeting: Merry Christmas! (And happy holidays to everyone, even professors).



Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Your Christmas forecast

Worth mentioning

Canadians dreaming of a white Christmas will likely get their wish, unless they live in the Maritimes or British Columbia.

Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips says much of the country will be wrapped in a white blanket on Christmas morning.

It could be the whitest Christmas ever in London and Sarnia, Ont.

London already has 48 centimetres while the Sarnia area was socked with 30-40 centimetres last week that stranded hundreds of motorists on Highway 402.

With nine centimetres on the ground and more

Fun in the snow



MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

on the way, Ottawa and Montreal are guaranteed a white Christmas.

Snow on the ground and below normal temperatures mean the Prairies already have their white Christmas in the bag, said Phillips.

There's just no chance for a white Christmas in Fredericton, Moncton, Halifax, Sydney, Charl-

tetown, St. John's, and Corner Brook, N.L., said Phillips.

Vancouver won't have a white Christmas, but there's only been an 11 per cent chance over 55 years that the city has one anyway, said Phillips. In Victoria and along the B.C. coast, there's little chance, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is a white Christmas important to you?

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Metro Minute at Great Canadian Chill

Start 2011 off with a splash at The Sears Great Canadian Chill at Britannia Beach.

Register today at Ottawa.the-sears-greatcanadianchill.ca to take the plunge into the chilly waters on Jan. 1 in support of fighting children's cancer. All donations raised through The Sears Great Canadian Chill will be directed to 16 Canadian pe-

diatric oncology centres to help children and their families cope with this devastating disease and find a cure.

All that is needed is a towel, bathing suit and nerves of steel.

The event is launching in Ottawa and Toronto this year and plans to expand to 10 markets by 2013.

JOE LOFARO



CONTRIBUTED

► A brave soul takes the plunge for The Sears Great Canadian Chill.

Movie review See it twice  | See it now  | Worth watching  | Yawn  | Don't bother 

Coens do justice to True Grit

True Grit

Genre: Western

Directors: Ethan Coen, Joel Coen

Stars: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld

Perhaps only artists as visionary and celebrated as The Coen Brothers would dare remake a film as beloved as True Grit and not be met with a tsunami of bile. The original 1969 picture (itself just re-released on Blu ray) starred John Wayne in the role that won him a much belated Oscar and was perhaps the last gasp of the classic, Ford/Hawks steeped mythic American western before the ultra-violent influence of the Ital-



ian "spaghetti western" consumed the genre.

Wisely, the Coen's have decided not to reproduce or "reinvent" it but rather go back to the source on which it was based, Charles Portis's novel. The resulting picture is nothing short of a joy to

behold.

This time, instead of The Duke we have Jeff Bridges at his craggy, curmudgeonly best as lone wolf Marshall Rueben "Rooster" Cogburn, who when he's not defending his latest righteous kill in a court of law, sleeps his

booze soaked self away in a cot behind a Chinese restaurant.

Into his sagebrush dusted life comes 14 year old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld), who secures Cogburn to hunt the villain that killed her father and bring 'em back alive. Also

adhered to their adventure is the preening, over-the-top head Ranger LeBoef (Matt Damon) who also wants to get his mitts on the same murderer so he can hang him for his crimes in Texas.

That's pretty much the story but narrative contrivance isn't what makes True Grit such a heart swelling, eye filling delight. It's a mixture of spot-on, giddy performances both lead and supporting; the delicate, lonely but never oppressive cinematography by Roger Deakins; Carter Burwell's aching and melancholy score that uses the hymn Leaning on the Everlasting Arms and most importantly, it's The Coen's ace direction, milking mirth and rugged poetry out of every second of screen time. A gentle, rambling treasure of a film. **CHRIS ALEXANDER**



Little fun from Little Fockers

Little Fockers

Genre: Comedy

Director: Paul Weitz

Stars: Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson

A once mildly amusing comedy is now an insufferable franchise brought

to new lows with Little Fockers. Not since It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World have so many stars combined forces to create easily the worst film of their careers.

Once again an anxious Ben Stiller is put at odds with his former CIA father in-law Robert De Niro, who now hopes that Stiller can take over the family patriarchal reigns as The Godfather, but is

concerned that he's having an affair with a cute little drug rep named Andi Garcia (Jessica Alba). Those two terrible puns represent the best jokes in the movie and are repeated ad nauseam to ensure that you won't find them funny by the end credits.

The Fockers (Barbara Streisand and Dustin Hoffman) pop up on the sidelines hosting a sex chat show and learning flamingo moves in Spain respectively, while Owen Wilson returns as a wealthy family friend with eyes for Stiller's wife. All the subplots and characters kind of connect in a climax, but the hastily constructed screenplay is too haphazard to form anything resembling a narrative. This isn't a movie. It's a Fock-ing disgrace.

PHIL BROWN



The King's Speech

Genre: Drama

Director: Tom Hooper

Stars: Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush

You can't make this stuff up, this engaging, period bro-mance between the soon-to-be King George VI (Colin Firth) and a commoner (Geoffrey Rush) who is a speech therapist on the eve of the Second World War. But apparently it happened. The Duke of

York, the second son of the late King George V, was saddled with a career threatening stammer that might not have mattered if the radio not just been invented or if his brother Edward hadn't just abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson, thrusting him into the top job. Now he is expected to address a nation on the verge of war. Both rollicking fun and a nail-biter.

ANNE BRODIE

2 scene

Scene in brief



30 Rock star Tracy Morgan is recovering from a kidney transplant.

A statement released Monday by Morgan's publicist says Morgan is doing well and taking much-needed time to recover from the surgery earlier this month.

The statement says the actor-comedian looks forward to returning to work on the New York-based NBC TV comedy after the holidays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hustling Miami video director earns praise

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KATHY WILLENS/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Spider-Man actor falls 30 feet on Broadway musical set

The troubled Broadway musical Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark was plagued by its fourth accident since it began previews last month when an actor performing an aerial stunt fell about 30 feet, fire officials said.

Firefighters were called to the Foxwoods Theatre in New York at about 10:45 p.m. Monday after the 31-year-old actor fell near the end of the latest preview performance.

He was taken to Bellevue Hospital with minor injuries, police said.

Police did not release the actor's name, but a performer in the show identified him as Christopher Tierney.

The performer spoke on condition of anonymity because the performer was not authorized to speak publicly about the accident.

A nurse at Bellevue Hospital said that a Christopher Tierney was admitted and was in stable condition, but would not provide details.

Tierney is the show's main aerialist and performs stunts for the roles of Spi-

"The actor is responsible for making the final check that he's good to go. It's sort of like packing your own parachute."

SCOTT FISHER,
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cuss today if shows would go on.

Actress Natalie Mendoza, who plays Spider-Man's evil love interest Arachne and herself was injured during the show's first preview last month, posted a Twitter message asking people to pray for the actor.

Miramonte said the fall happened about seven minutes before the end of the performance, and the show was stopped.

"All signs were good as he was taken to the hospital for observation," Miramonte said.

Maria Somma, a spokeswoman for Actors' Equity, said the union was told about the accident shortly after it happened Monday night. "We are working in co-operation with the state and city Department of Labor on this situation," Somma said.

On Friday, the show's lead producer Michael Kohl delayed the show's official opening for the second time, pushing it back 27 days, from Jan. 11 to Feb. 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cash Cab heads to Chicago

► A game show on four wheels that is able to compete creatively with longtime studio favourites Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune

The Discovery Network show that turns a New York City cab ride into an instant game show is launching a spinoff version based in Chicago next spring. Comic Beth Melewski, a Second City cast member, will be behind the wheel.

The expansion comes after a triumphant year for Cash Cab. The series, itself a remake of a British TV's similar game based in London, won its second

"It's everything that people thought it would be. It's a validation and credit for hard work."

BEN BAILEY, CASH CAB

Daytime Emmy award for best game show. Ben Bailey won his first Emmy as best host.

The idea for the Chicago version came when Bai-

ley did a handful of tapings in Las Vegas, some that included entertainers such as Carrot Top playing for charity, and Discovery recognized how a new city with new people and new sites could give Cash Cab an entirely different feel, said Clark Bunting, Discovery's CEO.

Bunting is from Michigan, and he wanted to get the Midwest involved. Chicago, a city similar to New York with many cabs,

seemed like it could work in a way that Los Angeles, for example, couldn't since there's relatively little cab use.

Melewski had the combination of smarts and knowledge of her city to work well in the cab, he said.

"Beth feels real-deal Chicago," he said. "You've got to have, for these shows at least, a feel for the city."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Ben Bailey, host of the mobile game show, Cash Cab.

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Lindsay under investigation

► Lohan has been undergoing treatment at the Betty Ford Center and its facilities since September

Lindsay Lohan is under investigation for an alleged misdemeanor battery against a female staffer at a rehab facility where the actress is receiving treatment, authorities said yesterday.

Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said officers responded to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert on Dec. 12 shortly after 1 a.m. for an incident involving Lohan.

Valenzuela says a female staffer reported having a dispute with the Mean Girls star and that

she wanted to pursue charges. No arrests were made and Valenzuela says detectives continue to look into the case.

Their results will be presented to Riverside County prosecutors, who will decide whether to file a criminal case, Valenzuela said.

Messages for Lohan's attorney were not immediately returned.

An email message seeking comment from a Betty Ford spokesman was not immediately returned, although the facility does not comment on its patients. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► Lindsay Lohan

Are Miller, Law set to tie the knot?

Jude Law and Sienna Miller are reportedly so happy together that the previously engaged couple are talking marriage — and maybe as soon as within the next two weeks.

Miller's sister, Savannah Miller confirms to the Daily Mail that the couple

have been talking marriage recently, while another source says they may even tie the knot over New Year's in a quiet ceremony.

The pair were previously engaged in 2005 before his cheating scandal forced Sienna to call it off.

● METRO

Merry Christmas from Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell may not quite understand the Christmas spirit.

British X-Factor judge Louis Walsh reveals that Cowell got all the show's judges the same gift this year: A massive Botox gift certificate.

"On the final he says,

'I've got a present for you three,' and he gives us envelopes," Walsh tells Sharon Osbourne during a TV interview. "I got home and opened (it) — it's (\$4,500) worth of Botox." Walsh says all three judges got the exact same thing.

● METRO

James Franco hates to do what he's told

James Franco has a simple reason for why he's co-hosting the Oscars this year with Anne Hathaway: His agents told him not to.

"When we finally met and discussed it in person, all my representatives were saying, 'No! Of course not!'" Franco tells Entertainment Weekly.

"That always sparks something in me. So I said, 'Yes, of course!' Because that reaction that they have is based on conventional wisdom of what makes a good career. And that can be boring — really boring."

● METRO



Celebrity tweets



Chris Brown
[@chrisbrown] i

have enough self respect and decency to be proud of accomplishing this DV class. Boyz run from there mistakes. Men learn from them!!!



Steve Martin
[@SteveMartinToGo]

REPORT FROM JURY DUTY: guy I thought was up for murder turns out to be defense attorney. I bet he murdered someone anyway.



Kirstie Alley
[@kirstiealley]

What do I want for Christmas you ask...I want Sanity and Wisdom..what do you want?



Kristen Bell
[@IMKristenBell] Dear

Europe, please let us go. We have been very good this year and we are very homesick. Love, us

News in brief

Vaughn, wife welcome baby

BIRTH. Vince Vaughn and wife Kyla welcomed their

first child, a girl, earlier this week, according to Hollyscoop. Their daughter, Locklyn Kyla Vaughn, came in at seven pounds. "Both of them couldn't be happier to welcome their sweet little girl into their family," a family friend says. ● METRO

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3 life

Travel in brief



A new Disney resort will open in phases, starting in May 2012.

The hotel will feature about 2,000 rooms, including 865 standard hotel rooms in Disney's "value" category. Another 1,120 will be suites.

The first phase will be a Finding Nemo-themed wing of suites. Another wing in the Lion King theme will follow. The final phase will feature the Little Mermaid theme.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Investors wanting to build replica of Noah's Ark get preliminary approval for tax breaks.



► If you're looking for private beaches surrounded by gorgeous scenery, get away from the big resorts and try Mexico's smaller towns.

Small-town Mexico

► Southeast of Acapulco, Huatulco is uncluttered and uncrowded ► This burgeoning resort town is close to no less than 36 untouched beaches

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



If you're tired of all those massive Mexican resort towns away from the popular bars and beaches, then small-town Huatulco might just be the perfect place for you.

This burgeoning West Coast resort area southeast of Acapulco is being built

from the ground up by the Mexican government, with only about 15 luxury resort hotels surrounded by nine small bays.

That lack of clutter makes for no less than 36 stunning, private, untouched beaches, all around gorgeous scenery you can't find in many Mexican resort towns anymore. Of course, the surrounding natural habitat is all the more wild and untouched, making for some unique adventures.

Finding myself a few hours north of the coast, I felt like I was in the middle of the Amazon. During a gondola ride on secluded

La Ventanilla Lagoon, the iguanas, turtles and tropical birds were plentiful, and so were 10-foot-plus crocodiles nudging by our little wooden vessel.

The area is also home to the Mexican turtle centre, where baby sea turtles are hatched and released regularly.

Another hidden treasure worth visiting lies tucked away in the mountains about two hours away from the coast.

The so-called Magic Water Falls are not only beautiful, but legend has it if you bathe in these remote mystical waters, they will magically erase wrinkles



► Huatulco is surrounded by nine small bays.

and instantly restore a youthful appearance.

If you want to beat the crowds to this obscure paradise, better do it soon. Over the next decade, there are plans to add 10 times the number of hotel rooms to accommodate two million tourists a year.

What to do

- **Visit the Tippy Blowfish.** Located in quiet La Crucecita, this is one of the funkiest bars in all of Mexico. Take in great live music and easygoing small-town culture in a funky outdoor environment. Be sure to ask owner Texas Joe for some of the coldest beer in town.
- **Go on a Mexican Outback Safari.** One of the newest attractions in Huatulco, this eco-adventure takes you to the heart of the tropical jungle and into far-removed villages. You'll cross mangroves and taste tropical fruit, and cap it off with some snorkelling in the remote fishing village of San Agustín.

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Bunches of holiday punches

Whether light and fizzy or dense and decadent, there's a punch recipe to complement every soirée

Following the adage that everything old is new again, the hot trend in party drinks this holiday is punch, served in, you guessed it, a punch bowl.

Various sources say punch was introduced to England from India in the early 17th century and then it spread to other countries.

Tanya Steel, editor-in-chief of Epicurious, says the recent resurgence of punch may be a harbinger of the times. "I think punches are a big beverage

Stir things up

Here are some tips on preparing punch:

- Estimate the number of servings you will need. Generally punch is served in 125-ml (4-oz) round cups or glasses. Plan for three to four servings per guest.

- Use quality ingredients.
- If garnishing with fruit don't overload the bowl.
- Have as many of the ingredients chilled before beginning to make punch.
- Offer guests a non-alcoholic version of a punch that contains alcohol. The two bowls should be separated and clearly identified.

Source: thatsthespirit.com

trend this holiday season because they are festive to look at and imbibe and it

enables the host to stretch a little liquor a long way," she said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Pear Tree Punch

Preparation:

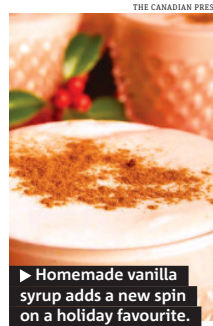
- In a pitcher, place all ingredients and stir to mix. Pour into punch bowl holding ice.
- To flame an orange zest: Using a sharp knife, cut an oval tab of zest about one by three inches.
- With the skin pointing outward bend the oval toward the flame of a lighter over the drink. The flame should ignite the oils which will squirt from the zest. Add the flamed orange peel.

Ingredients :

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) single malt Scotch
- 10 dashes orange bitters or regular bitters
- 750 ml (3 cups) pear juice
- Flamed orange zest, for garnish



Pear Tree Punch features a flamed orange garnish for a special twist.



Homemade vanilla syrup adds a new spin on a holiday favourite.

Nod to Nog

Preparation:

- To make vanilla syrup, add equal parts sugar and boiling water to a heatproof vessel, stir to dissolve and let cool. Add 2 to 3 drops of vanilla extract or 1/4 vanilla bean. Stir to mix.

- Combine ingredients with blender and add to

a punch bowl. Keep chilled.

- Garnish each serving with a pinch of nutmeg.

Ingredients :

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) Canadian whisky
- 30 ml (2 tbsps) vanilla syrup (see step 1)
- 750 ml (3 cups) cream
- 8 egg whites
- Nutmeg, for garnish

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One individual's experience, told here, provides an example of why you should be careful when you call the Ministry of Labour.

Following his termination, Scott Seltzer was given a termination package

consisting of a three-week severance payment required by legislation and an offer for an additional payment in exchange for signing a release.

Instead of calling a lawyer, Seltzer called the B.C. Ministry of Labour for advice. Seltzer was told

that in B.C. a worker "could not sign their legal rights away," which is technically correct but practically misleading. Each province has legislation that sets out minimum severance. Here, Seltzer was entitled to a minimum payment of three weeks' salary.

However, since Seltzer was entitled to more than just the minimum, his employer asked him to sign a release for the additional payments — which is an agreement not to later sue. Although this was an issue that most employment lawyers would spot as a matter of course, the Ministry representative failed to clarify the distinction.

Relying on what he was

told, Seltzer mistakenly thought he had nothing to lose by signing the release, believing he could take the extra money and then challenge his employer for more. However, when he later made a human rights complaint, his claim was dismissed at a preliminary hearing because of the release he had signed. Why did this happen and how could it be avoided?

Most provincial employment ministries in Canada have hotlines for employees to call to obtain "information" about their rights. The problem is that this information is often construed as "advice," since advice is often inappropriately dispensed by the ministry representatives

who answer the phone. And, since most people will believe, even if incorrectly, that they received advice from a government body, they are unlikely to later pay for a lawyer's time to obtain a second opinion.

This example is not an exception. The ministry representatives should explain only what the legislation says and how it was interpreted in the past. There is no mandate to provide recommendations, or worse, to provide advice.

Yet it happens anyway when some of the representatives habitually blur this distinction. When they do, the public's interests may be subverted.

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Does my job bring me joy?

► Experts emphasize that now is the best time of year to evaluate your career choices



DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

As the stressful season of year-end deadlines and pre-Christmas chaos boils down to a cozy yuletide break, there's no more fitting a moment, career counselors say, to take a pause by the fireside and reflect on whether your daily work is meaningful. "A rare few people have a real career plan, some people have a vague idea of what they should do, and most people have no

formal goals," Executive Coach Jane Cranston says. "It's when they get into their mid-30s that they start asking 'where am I?'"

Better to start contemplating your life goals, she says, on December 30th than your 30th December.

That's true not just because the solstice has a magic for forcing normally rushed professionals to peer backwards at the years gone by – but because the winter months happen to be the prime time window to execute a

career swap.

"Believe it or not, December, January and the first half of February are counter-intuitively, the best time to find a new job," Fearless Career Change author Marky Stein notes.

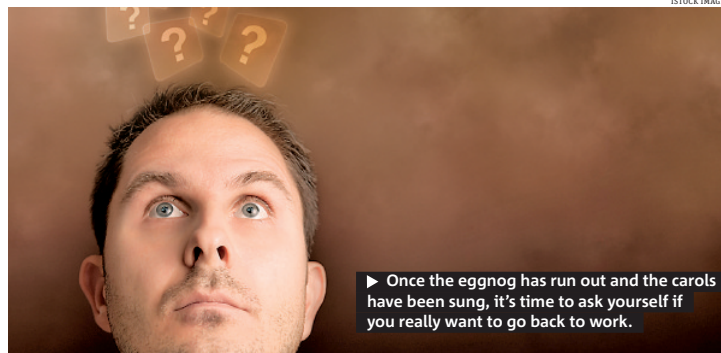
But they're also pretty good months to find the joy in your old job.

Start by using the holiday time, Stein recommends, to ask yourself what's right about your job, moving from basic questions – Does your boss respect you? Do your co-workers understand you? – towards more core considerations, like "Am I proud of what I do?" she suggests.

"Finally, there's the big existential question of 'Would I like to be remembered after my retirement or death as doing the position I am now doing and doing it well?' she offers. "People have to honestly face that question at one point or another."

A career counselor can help break down that daunting dilemma into a mere challenge.

"We help people set and attain goals," Cranston says. "The evidence is that most people attain more, faster when they have a coach."



► Once the eggnog has run out and the carols have been sung, it's time to ask yourself if you really want to go back to work.

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Quoted



"When I look back at the MLS stage of my career, I'm pretty proud of what I accomplished from the age of 35 on. I worked hard for that."

PAT ONSTAD, THE STAR CANADIAN GOALKEEPER WHO ANNOUNCED HE WAS RETIRING FROM THE HOUSTON DYNAMO AT THE AGE OF 42 TO BECOME AN ASSISTANT COACH WITH D.C. UNITED.

Canada answers Swedish challenge

► Roy has 29 saves, Kassian, Schenn, Johansen net goals

4	1
CANADA	SWEDEN

The Canadian national junior team overcame a stiff challenge from a fast and aggressive Swedish squad, riding goals from Brayden Schenn, Zack Kassian and Ryan Johansen plus a stellar 29-save performance from goaltender Olivier Roy in a 4-1 exhibition win last night.

A patriotic and proud crowd at the Air Canada Centre went home happy but there was lots for head coach Dave Cameron and his staff to dissect afterwards.

The Canadians have one more warmup game — tomorrow against Finland in Kitchener — before opening the world junior hockey championship in Buffalo, N.Y., on Boxing Day against Russia, and there was plenty in their play to tighten up.

Max Friberg scored midway through the third period for Sweden, but Johansen picked a loose puck in front of the net and fired it home at 15:55 to settle things down, and Cody Eakin put it away by

scoring into an empty net with 46.1 seconds left.

A night after dismantling a soft Swiss squad 8-0 in Oshawa, the Canadians were put on their heels by the darting yellow jerseys of a Sweden team that answered every hit and didn't back down an inch.

The Swedes arrived in Toronto missing 10 bags of equipment, and only practised Monday after Hockey Canada sent them on a shopping spree for some replacement gear. But they got their stuff about three hours before gametime and found their legs immediately, using their speed to take away time and space from the Canadians.

Despite thundering hits early on from Schenn, Kassian and Marcus Foligno, it was Roy who kept Sweden from running away with it in the first with a series of big stops. It took 6:11 for Canada to register its first shot of the game.

Then, against the run of play, Schenn opened the scoring when he took a clever bank pass from a falling Quinton Howden and broke in on a 2-on-1, cut in front of the goal, and fired a shot past goaltender Robin Lehner's outstretched glove at 7:32.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Team Canada forward Ryan Johansen jumps in the air as Team Sweden goalie Robin Lehner makes a save.

Canon

The Evolution Continues.

The new flagship of the EOS Rebel line, Canon EOS Rebel T2i brings professional EOS features into an easy to use, lightweight digital SLR that's a joy to use. Featuring a class-leading 18.0 Megapixel CMOS Image Sensor and increased light sensitivity for low light photography, the EOS Rebel T2i also has an advanced HD Movie mode for gorgeous Full HD movies. Able to capture up to 3.7 frames per second, it's ready to go the minute it's picked up. Advanced Live View, a new wide-area screen, plus features like Canon's brilliant Auto Lighting Optimizer and Highlight Tone features ensure brilliant photos and movies, easily. With some of the most advanced features of any digital SLR, it's simply the best Rebel Canon has ever created.

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Philadelphia enjoying bite out of Big Apple

Some saying Philly has taken over dominance mantle from New York

LeSean McCoy stood on a bench after the Philadelphia Eagles jolted the New York Giants and yelled at a stunned, disbelieving crowd. Around him, teammates jumped and celebrated, the comeback victory too astonishing to comprehend.

"We own New York. We own New York. We own y'all," the normally mild-mannered running back shouted at fans.

There's no denying McCoy is right — at least for now. The City of Brotherly Love really stuck it to the Big Apple last week.

First, the Phillies

swooped in from nowhere and signed Cliff Lee away from the Yankees. The star pitcher turned down an extra \$30-plus million US from New York to return to Philadelphia and be part of a starting rotation that's the envy of baseball.

Next, the Flyers beat the Rangers 4-1 Saturday after snapping Pittsburgh's 12-game winning streak a few days earlier. These were the same Rangers the Flyers defeated in a do-or-die shootout to clinch a playoff berth last spring en route to the Stanley Cup final.

Then the Eagles capped

a spectacular week by overcoming a 21-point deficit with 7:18 remaining and beating the Giants 38-31 on Sunday on the final play — DeSean Jackson's 65-yard punt return that's being called the "Miracle at the New Meadowlands."

"After Cliff Lee took less money to come to Philly instead of the Yankees, the Flyers destroyed the Rangers with everyone watching, and the Eagles yet again made the Giants look like circus clowns. New Yorkers can no

longer ignore the fact that Philly owns them," die-hard fan Dave Maco said.

"Not just in sports, but in character and heart."

Yes, it's a great time to be a sports fan in Philadelphia. The city is the epicentre of the sports world these days.

"I'm sure it's exciting," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "I know it's exciting for us. I know it's exciting for the fans."

Michael Vick's remarkable comeback is perhaps the most compelling story in sports. With Vick and Jackson



Michael Vick

leading the way, the Eagles (10-4) are strong contenders to get to the Super Bowl.

Even the 76ers are playing better after a rough start under first-year coach

Doug Collins.

In U.S. college basketball, Villanova is ranked No. 8, and Temple and Drexel knocked off top-20 teams in the past two weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malkin takes it up a notch

The Pittsburgh Penguins finished up a 12-game win streak only last week, yet they might be a better team now than they were then.

Evgeni Malkin is making them better.

Malkin is finally showing off the flashy game that was missing most of the season, with five goals and three assists in three games. Accompanying those goals was the razzle-dazzle that helped make the Russian the NHL's leading scorer and playoff MVP two seasons ago.

Malkin, admittedly slowed by a left knee injury that forced him to wear a thin brace, was almost a non-factor during the second-longest winning streak in Penguins history. He scored goals in only six of their first 31 games, a replay of his disappointing 2009-10 season.

Since Malkin took four games off to rest the knee, he again resembles the player who was once considered Crosby's near equal.

Malkin had two goals and three assists in the first two periods of Pittsburgh's 6-1 victory over Phoenix on

Monday night, reminding the Penguins what they've been missing.

"I was just trying to keep up with him," said Crosby, who had a goal and an assist against the Coyotes.

Resting Malkin for 12 days might have been exactly what was needed to get him back on his game. He had both Penguins goals during a streak-ending 3-2 loss in Philadelphia on Dec. 14, then scored again a night later against the Rangers. Then, after Pittsburgh enjoyed a rare four-day break, he matched his career high with his five-point night against Phoenix.

"It's close to 100 per cent because it's not painful now," Malkin said of the sore knee. "I'm trying to chase guys and work hard close to the boards. Yeah, it's close to 100 per cent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



McNabb feels 'disrespected'

Making his first public comments since his demotion last week, Donovan McNabb said he strongly disagreed with Washington Redskins coach Mike Shanahan's decision to bench him.

But he has a bigger problem with the way he says the organization leaked the news to the media before informing him.

"Everything was handled awkwardly," McNabb said yesterday on his weekly radio show on ESPN980. "Because of the timing and because of all the leaks and everything that was put out there, and no putting out the fire, so to speak."

"I'm hearing everything through the media."

Shanahan waited until Thursday evening to tell McNabb that Rex Grossman would be the starter for the rest of the season, even though rumblings of a possible switch had been circulating all week.

"I was pulled back by it. All of a sudden you get

this news a couple of days before the game, you do feel somewhat disrespected," McNabb said. "You could have told me earlier or at least prepared me for it."

McNabb said he wasn't even aware he was being demoted to No. 3 quarterback for the final two games of the season until Shanahan announced the move to reporters the next day.

As for the benching, McNabb conceded he's had a tough year, but said he felt he had made enough progress in his first season with the Redskins to give the team something to build on. Shanahan said he benched McNabb because the team had been eliminated from the playoffs and he wanted to evaluate the two other quarterbacks, Grossman and John Beck.

The Redskins signed McNabb to a contract extension last month, but it contains a clause that allows the team to release him before next season without further financial obligations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	35	22	8	2	3	117	87	49	12-6-2-0	10-2-2-1	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Washington	36	20	12	2	2	109	100	44	13-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W2
d-Montreal	33	19	12	2	0	87	72	40	12-5-2-0	7-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Pittsburgh	34	22	10	2	0	110	79	46	11-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	W1
Atlanta	36	19	12	1	4	117	104	43	10-7-0-2	9-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1
Tampa Bay	33	19	10	2	2	104	109	42	10-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	7-1-0-2	W4
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Boston	32	17	11	1	3	89	68	38	8-6-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1

Carolina	32	15	13	0	4	90	99	34	7-5-0-1	8-8-0-3	4-3-0-3	L1
Buffalo	34	16	14	4	0	89	97	32	8-9-1-0	6-7-3-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Ottawa	35	14	17	3	1	88	106	32	8-9-1-1	9-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Florida	31	15	16	0	0	85	70	30	7-6-0-0	8-10-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Toronto	33	12	17	2	2	75	102	28	8-7-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-4-0-0	L3
New Jersey	33	9	22	1	1	59	103	20	5-8-1-1	4-14-0-0	2-8-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	30	6	18	3	3	65	104	18	4-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	2-6-1-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	32	20	8	3	1	105	68	44	12-4-2-1	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	L2
d-Dallas	33	20	10	1	2	95	90	43	11-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W2
d-Vancouver	31	19	8	2	2	101	78	42	11-3-1-1	8-5-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Colorado	33	19	10	4	0	121	105	42	10-4-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-1-3-0	W6
Nashville	32	17	9	4	2	83	79	40	8-2-3-2	9-7-1-0	8-1-1-0	L1
Anaheim	35	18	17	3	1	88	111	40	11-6-0-1	5-4-0-1	5-4-0-1	L1
San Jose	33	17	11	4	1	100	94	39	8-6-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Chicago	35	18	14	2	1	111	103	39	10-9-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W2
Los Angeles	31	18	12	1	0	90	73	37	11-2-1-0	7-10-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Phoenix	32	15	10	4	3	89	93	37	6-4-2-2	9-6-2-1	4-4-0-2	L1
Columbus	33	17	13	2	1	85	91	37	9-8-0-1	8-8-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
St. Louis	33	16	12	2	3	86	93	37	10-4-0-2	6-8-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Minnesota	32	15	13	1	3	79	91	34	8-7-0-2	7-6-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Calgary	35	14	18	1	2	92	103	31	9-7-0-0	5-11-1-2	4-5-0-1	L3
Edmonton	31	12	14	1	4	84	108	29	6-8-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	W1

d = division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results

Buffalo 5 Anaheim 2
St. Louis 4 Atlanta 2
Columbus 3 Calgary 1
Washington 5 New Jersey 1
Montreal at Dallas
Los Angeles at Colorado
Edmonton at San Jose
Monday's results
Vancouver 3 St. Louis 1
Atlanta 6 Toronto 3

Minnesota 4 Calgary 1
Anaheim 3 Boston 0
Florida 5 Philadelphia 0
Pittsburgh 6 Phoenix 1
Tampa Bay 5 Carolina 1
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Florida at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BLUE JACKETS 3, FLAMES 1

First Period

1. Columbus, Voracek 6 (Methot, Brassard)

5:14

Penalties — Jackman Cal, Boll Cbl (fighting)
2:59, Regehr Cal, Sestito Cbl (fighting), Stralman Cbl (holding) 13:10, Iginla Cal (boarding)
13:59, Calgary bench (too many men; served by Jokinen) 18:23.

Second Period

2. Columbus, Boll 3 (Sestito, Wilson) 11:18
Los Angeles at San Jose
16:34 (pp)

Penalties — Vermette Cbl (interference) 6:46,
Vermette Cbl (interference) 16:01.

Third Period

4. Columbus, Klesla 2, 19:02 (en)
Penalties — Morrison Cal (tripping) 5:12,
Columbus bench (too many men; served by Brassard) 15:20.

Shots

Calgary 9 11 10 30
Columbus 12 17 8 37

Goal — Calgary: Karlsson (L2-2-2); Columbus:
Garon (W,8-4-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)**
— Calgary: 1-4; Columbus: 0-3.

Att. — 12,443 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	27	30	57
Stamkos, TB	26	21	47
St. Louis, TB	13	30	43
Perry, Ana	17	22	39
Datsyuk, Det	12	27	39
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	22	38
B.Richards, Dal	15	23	38
Ovechkin, Wash	12	26	38
D.Sedin, Vcr	6	31	37
Getzlaf, Ana	13	22	35
Byfuglien, Att	11	24	35

Not including last night's games

FOOTBALL

NCAA

BOWL GAMES

All times Eastern

Tonight's game

BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL

At St. Petersburg, Fla.

Louisville (6-6) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-4), 8 p.m.

Tonight's game

MAACO BOWL

At Las Vegas

Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1), 8 p.m.

Tomorrow's game

POINSETTIA BOWL

At San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.

Friday's game

HAWAII BOWL

At Honolulu

Hawaii (10-3) vs. Tulsa (9-3), 8 p.m.

Sunday's game

LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL

At Detroit

Toledo (8-6) vs. Florida International (6-6), 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 27

INDEPENDENCE BOWL

At Shreveport, La.

Georgia Tech (6-6) vs. Air Force (8-4), 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

At Orlando, Fla.

North Carolina State (8-4) vs. West Virginia (9-3), 6:30 p.m.

INSIGHT BOWL

At Tempe, Ariz.

Missouri (10-2) vs. Iowa (7-5), 10 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

MILITARY BOWL

At Landover, Md.

East Carolina (6-6) vs. Maryland (8-4), 2:30 p.m.

TEXAS BOWL

At Houston

Baylor (7-5) vs. Illinois (6-6), 6 p.m.

ALAMO BOWL

At San Antonio

Arizona (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 9 p.m.

SOCCER

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Yesterday's results

Celtic 1 Kilmarnock 1

Dundee United vs. Rangers (ppd., snow)

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY

Round of 16

First Leg

Yesterday's results

Barcelona 0, Athletic Bilbao 0

Cordoba 1, Deportivo La Coruna 1

Valencia 0, Villarreal 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's result

Lorient 0 Montpellier 0

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP

Round of 16

Yesterday's results

Augsburg 0, Schalke 1

Hoffenheim 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 0

Kickers Offenbach vs. Nuremberg (ppd.)

Koblenz vs. Kaiserslautern (ppd.)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	22	4	.846	—
d-Miami	21	9	.700	3
d-Chicago	16	9	.640	5½
Atlanta	18	12	.600	9½
New York	16	12	.571	7
Orlando	16	12	.571	7
Indiana	13	14	.481	9½
Philadelphia	11	16	.407	11½
Milwaukee	10	16	.385	12
Toronto	10	18	.357	13
Charlotte	9	19	.321	14
Detroit	9	19	.321	14
Cleveland	8	20	.286	15
New Jersey	8	20	.286	15
Washington	7	19	.269	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	24	3	.889	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	1½
d-L.A. Lakers	22	7	.759	3½
d-Oklahoma City	20	9	.690	5
d-Utah	20	9	.690	5
Denver	16	10	.615	7½
New Orleans	16	12	.571	8½
Portland	15	14	.517	10
Phoenix	13	14	.481	11
Houston	13	15	.464	11½
Memphis	12	16	.429	12½
Golden State	9	18	.333	15
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.276	17
Minnesota	6	23	.207	19
Sacramento	5	20	.200	18

Last night's results

Oklahoma City 99 Charlotte 81

Dallas 105 Orlando 99

Philadelphia at Chicago

New Jersey at Memphis

Golden State at Sacramento

Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers

Monday's results

Atlanta 91 Orlando 81

Utah 101 Cleveland 90

Indiana 94 New Orleans 93

Washington 108 Charlotte 75

Dallas 98 Miami 96

San Antonio 118 Phoenix 110

Portland 106 Milwaukee 80

Houston 121 Golden State 112

L.A. Clippers 113 Minnesota 90

Tonight's games

Cleveland at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.

Oklahoma City at New York, 7:30 p.m.

New Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING AVERAGE

Durant, OKC	24	213	196	658	27.4
Stoudemire, NYK	28	281	174	742	26.5
Bryant, LAL	28	246	191	724	25.9
Ellis, GOL	27	260	119	680	25.2
Nowitzki, DAL	27	252	141	670	24.8
Rose, CHI	24	224	93	594	24.3
James, MIA	30	244	203	729	24.3
Anthony, DEN	24	200	161	576	24.0
Gordon, LAC	27	210	185	645	23.9
Wade, MIA	29	236	183	682	23.5
Martin, HOU	28	185	220	655	23.4
Westbrook, OKC	28	217	203	646	23.1
Williams, UTA	29	214	171	646	22.3
Howard, ORL	25	188	163	599	21.6
Bargnani, TOR	26	211	102	556	21.4
Granger, IND	26	191	111	553	21.3
Beasley, MIN	27	231	90	574	21.3
Gay, MEM	27	219	92	566	21.0
Love, MIN	29	204	157	603	20.8
Griffin, LAC	29	235	131	602	20.8
Scout, LAL	28	233	100	565	20.2
Scott, HOU	28	214	155	578	20.3
Griffin, SAN	29	214	140	531	18.3
Nor, NJN	27	209	100	519	19.2
Lopez, LAC	27	201	153	535	19.1
Aldridge, POR	29	219	112	553	19.1
J. Richardson, ORL	26	186	57	492	18.9
Pierce, BOS	26	167	116	480	18.5
Fletcher, NYK	28	185	95	516	18.4

► A diet makes you look sporty, even if there's no more muscle



► The RVR is 37 centimetres shorter than the standard Outlander. It's definitely a sporty little number, despite what its 143-horsepower four-cylinder engine implies.

This SUV should earn a spot in the big leagues

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

It's not every day that Mitsubishi introduces new models to North America, but it had to happen sooner or later.

Technically, though, the 2011 RVR (called the Outlander Sport in the U.S.) is a spin-off of the current Outlander wagon. In fact, both models use the same platform as the compact Lancer sedan. But with a 37-centimetre reduction in overall length over the Outlander, the RVR actually appears radically different. It's also geared to a different audience and seems destined to fulfill a different mission in life.

Without doubt, the RVR's attractively proportioned shape appears, well, sporty, as opposed to the sheetmetal on the family-values-looking Outlander. In fact, only the senior Outlander's outside mirrors are shared with the upstart. From stem to stern, the design is more cohesive and works well with the Lancer Evolution-style open-mouth nose-piece that Mitsubishi claims was inspired by jet-fighter air intakes. Naturally, a price must be paid for



► It actually is pretty sporty inside. It's reminiscent of the exceptional Hyundai Tucson, which is quite a compliment.

pruning more than a foot from the RVR's length. The bigger Outlander is available with a third row and the RVR is not. Simple. Although the cargo hold has been similarly shortened, it remains more than adequate. If need be, the storage space can be maxed out by folding forward the split 60:40 rear seat.

The five-passenger seating arrangement will suit most needs although we wonder about the polka-dot-like base seat coverings. For drivers, a display screen indicating fuel, outside temperature, odometer reading and other vitals separates the dashboard's large twin gauge pods.

The RVR's thrust is provided by the Lancer-based

2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that makes 148 horsepower and 145 pound-feet of torque. That's not exactly earth-shattering compared to the Hyundai Tucson's 175-horsepower engine or the Volkswagen Tiguan's 200 turbocharged horses, but it should be enough to make the 1,410-kilogram RVR (about 180 kilograms lighter than the original Outlander) perform in a lively manner.

The RVR's performance might not entirely live up to its sporty intentions (Mitsubishi has more potent four-cylinder engines that it could easily draw upon), but for style and content, this shrink-wrapped wagon should earn a spot in the big leagues.

Mitsubishi RVR



What you should know about the 2011 Mitsubishi RVR:

- **Type:** Four-door compact front-/four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC four-cylinder (148).
- **Transmissions:** Five-speed manual; continuously vari-

able (opt.)

► **Market Position:** Compact sport utility vehicles such as the Outlander-based RVR provide a bit more ruggedness than their wagon counterparts with optional all-wheel-drive and generally make more practical and all-weather useful.

► **Points:** Reducing length of the Outlander actually does make the RVR appear sportier; Lancer Evolution nose clip a bit misleading, unless Mitsubishi plans introducing performance upgrade.

► **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.7/6.4 (MT)

► **Base price:** \$23,450 (including destination).

5

drive

By comparison

Hyundai Tucson

Base price: \$22,800
Sharp-looking second-generation model has become a popular choice.



Jeep Compass

Base price: \$17,200
A low price is this small ute's primary appeal. For on-road use only.



Volkswagen Tiguan

Base price: \$29,500
Powerful turbo engine and high-quality interior worth the premium price.



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► Think 'transmission' when shopping for a used Volvo V70

SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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Recognized as a world-leader in occupant protection, models from the Volvo brand are often sought out by shoppers prioritizing safety on the move.

Safety is serious business for the Swedes, and a Volvo wagon's always been a sure way to get the wife and kids around with plenty of peace

of mind.

The second-generation Volvo V70 was a wagon available to Canadian shoppers from 2001 to 2007 model years inclusive. A more rugged "Cross Country" variant of the V70, called the XC70, was also available. Where confident all-season family travels are concerned, these two machines really hit the mark.

All models got five-cylinder power from a range of naturally-aspirated and turbocharged engines outputting between 168 and 247 ponies. Manual or automatic transmissions were



► Volvo V70

available, as was All Wheel Drive (AWD), depending on the model in question. Ultimately, the V70, XC70 and even S60 sedan in this generation shared virtually the same hardware under their skin.

Inside, look for flexible interior space, a generous cargo hold and plenty of

storage to keep occupants organized. Volvo wagons are known for a solid, quiet ride and bolted-down feel of security and plantedness, and this generation is no exception.

What Owners Like

Comfort, handling and security are all highly rated by owners, as is interior space,

The 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2001 to 2007 Volvo V70/XC70
- **Vehicle Type:** Wagon/crossover wagon
- **Approximate used price range:** \$6,000 to \$18,000

design, and drivetrain refinement.

What Owners Hate

Some owners report that careful and light-footed driving is required to achieve good mileage. Owners of models with the lower-output powerplants typically wish for more performance.

Common Issues

Considering a used Volvo wagon in this generation?

Think "transmission". Numerous owners have reported gearbox issues that have required replacement, sometimes more than once. This well-documented problem means ensuring proper transmission integrity is vital to a successful purchase.

The Verdict

To the majority of V70s and XC70 owners, the driving experience and confidence more than compensate for potential issues. All said, used shoppers should shop patiently and carefully, get service records and look for a model that's familiar to their local Volvo dealer. Be sure to snatch up any extended powertrain warranties that may be available. Just to be safe.

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Owner

SUBARU

*When you lease, purchase or finance a new 2011/2010 Impreza/Forester/Outback/Legacy/Tribeca you will receive a \$500/\$1,000 (Tribeca only) gift card which can be applied towards options, accessories, down payment or monthly payments on an eligible 2011/2010 Impreza/Forester/Outback/Legacy/Tribeca at the time of purchase, lease or finance. Subaru gift cards are not available on 2011/2010 Impreza WRX STI models. Credits are inclusive of applicable taxes and will be applied, as applicable, to relevant monthly lease or finance payment or purchase price at dealership. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 4, 2011. *MSRP of \$21,865/\$30,195/\$25,195/\$28,095 on 2011 Impreza 2.5i (B61-8P)/Outback 2.5i (B62-CP)/Legacy 2.5i (B62-CP)/Forester 2.5X Convenience Package (B62-CP). Lease for \$249/\$399/\$339 a month for 36/39/39 months with \$2,233/\$3,581/\$1,995 down. 2.9%/4.9%/3.9%/2.9% lease rate. \$2,808/29/\$4,407/22/\$2,638/\$4,170/35 due at signing. Option to purchase at end of lease is \$13,336/\$16,125/\$14,046/\$15,603. MSRP of \$40,995 on 2011 Tribeca (B62-X). \$5,000 cash credit offer is for cash purchases only and is available on 2011 Tribeca (B62-X). All current stackable consumer cash incentives have been applied to the lease offers. Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI (\$1,525), Air Tax (\$100), Title/Stewardship Levy (\$29.20), OMVIC Fee (\$5), Dealer Admin (\$199), Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. \$0 Security Deposit. Models shown: 2011 Forester 2.5X Convenience Package (B62-CP), MSRP of \$28,095. 2011 Impreza 2.5i 4-door (B61-8P), MSRP of \$20,995. 2011 Legacy 2.5GT (B61-GTN), MSRP of \$38,595. 2011 Outback 2.5i Sport Package (B61-SP), MSRP of \$31,795. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year, with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCO. Other lease and finance rates and terms available, down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Vehicles shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers available until January 4, 2011. See Subaru Outaouais for complete program details.

Wise customers read the fine print. ♦ ♦ ♦ The Deck the Driveway Holiday Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between December 1, 2010 and January 3, 2011 from participating retailers. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailer for complete details and conditions. ♦ ♦ ♦ The up to \$500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, GST and QST. Customers may choose to have the up to \$500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from December 1, 2010 through January 3, 2011 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x4 Sport, Compass 4x4/4x4 Sport, Wrangler 2-Door Sport, Dodge Journey SE, Grand Caravan Cargo Van & Canada Value Package, Caliber CVP & SE Plus, Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2/4x4 and Ram Cab and Chassis). ♦ ♦ ♦ Customer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on most new 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models (except Grand Caravan Cargo Van and Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. (Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your retailer for complete details.) Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a \$199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Example: 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (28E) with a Purchase Price of \$38,295 financed at 2.99% APR over 60 months with payment amortized over 80 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of \$244 and one final payment of \$10,355 for a cost of borrowing of \$42,018.34. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumer Digest Communications LLC, used under licence. ♦ ♦ ♦ Based on Ward's 2010 Middle SUV classification. ♦ ♦ ♦ SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ♦ ♦ ♦ Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland (in White Gold) shown.



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CHOICE FINANCING**

\$244 @ 2.99%^{††}
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AND \$0 DOWN

**WITH THE OPTION TO RETURN
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Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from \$0 to \$1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from \$0 to \$1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.



Jeep.

DODGE



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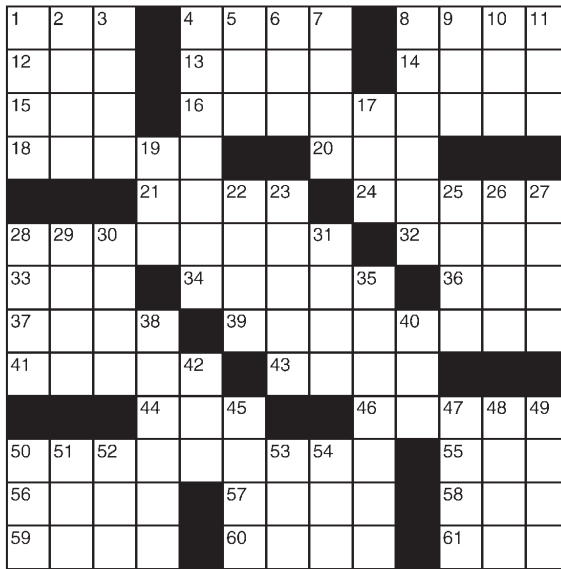
Crossword

Across

1 Request
4 Movie pig
8 Interoffice note
12 Writer Buscaglia
13 In due time
14 Ahmadinejad's land
15 Coffee vessel
16 Runner
18 Source of igneous rock
20 Spotted
21 Spheres
24 Parade
28 Confirm
32 Harvard rival
33 — carte
34 Baghdad resident
36 Sailor
37 Hard work
39 Flood
41 Rio Grande feeder
43 Casino cubes
44 Poolroom tool
46 Robbery
50 Convert to cash
55 "— Town"
56 Burden
57 Grand tale
58 Puggilists' org.
59 Summertime pest
60 Bottle part
61 Cleopatra's slayer

Down

1 Astrigent
2 Antitoxins
3 "King —"
4 Rival of Captain Morgan
5 Santa —
6 "— voyage!"
7 Concludes
8 Carnival area
9 Historic period
10 Wrestling surface
11 Inseparable
17 "— the Walrus"
19 Miss Piggy's pronoun
22 Adriatic Sea port
23 Leave one's seat
25 Sitar music
26 Coagulate
27 "... oh, where can —?"
28 Seductress
29 Burn remedy
30 Secular

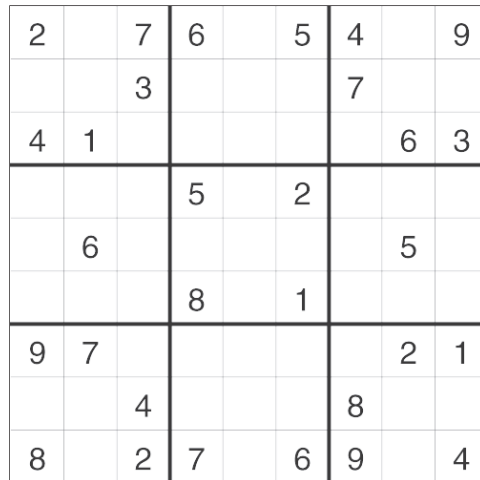


31 Iso-
35 Restrained
38 Grasshopper's cousin
40 Cee follower
42 — generis
45 Paradise
47 Corn Belt state
48 Second-stringers
49 Snare
50 Journal
51 Hostel
52 Sine-non link
53 Mimic
54 Twitch

Yesterday's answer

C R A B D E A R T W A
M O N O O G R E W I G
T W I N P E A K S O N E
B A R D T U S K S
D E P O T F A M E
I R A N S T A R W A R S
P S I L E A S T T A I
S E R G E A N T C E N T
E L A N F O R T E
A D D O N B A U M
L E O D O U B L E B E D
O A F E D G E L I L Y
E L F R E S T Y O K E

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

3	2	8	9	6	4	1	7	5
1	4	7	2	5	3	8	9	6
9	6	5	7	8	1	4	2	3
8	3	2	4	7	9	6	5	1
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	4	9
4	7	9	6	1	5	3	8	2
5	8	3	1	4	2	9	6	7
7	1	4	5	9	6	2	3	8
2	9	6	8	3	7	5	1	4

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy Birthday Steve!!! I hope you have a great day! Hopefully this year will be full of luck and happiness! I love you very much, (gach la). Will you marry me? KRISTEN XOXO

My Bella, In you I have found the love of my life. My heart skips a beat when you're near, and I am nothing but thankful for having you to share with. Looking forward to a wonderful future with you. Truly, madly, deeply, CHRIS

L.L. My darling, wanted to remind you how much I care for you, how happy I am to have you in my life, and that I look forward to every passing day with you. Loving you endlessly, R.B.

Dear Kimmy, Ever since I first laid my eyes upon you, I have been living on cloud nine. I can't wait to wake up every morning next to you for the rest of my life. Love, KARL.

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Are the conclusions you have reached about a certain situation your own conclusions, or are they ideas you have picked up from other people or from the media? Think for yourself today.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may be tempted to do something that will gain you an advantage over your rivals, but is it ethical? If not you are strongly advised to play by the rules.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Just because the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence does not mean you have been moving in the wrong direction. All roads eventually lead to where you most need to go.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 An idea or belief you have always taken for granted is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Maybe it's time to replace it with something a bit more up to date.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 A relationship is at a turning point and what happens today or tomorrow will seal its fate one way or the other. It may not be easy to call it a day but if that's what your heart tells you then what choice do you have?

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Mercury, your ruler, is at right angles to Jupiter today, which means you will need to make an extra effort to get your message across. Make sure you shout at the right people.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 History always repeats itself, so if what you see or hear reminds you of the past make sure you act on that knowledge.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Your trust in someone has taken a bit of a nose-dive in recent weeks and what happens today is unlikely to change your opinion that they don't know what they are doing. Keep your distance. Stupidity can be contagious.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Take what you hear from a colleague or friend with a large pinch of salt. Mind planet Mercury, at odds with your ruler Jupiter, warns they don't know what they are talking about.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Take the chance to go back and take care of something you should have dealt with a long time ago. If you still can't get it right then maybe it's just too much for you. Do something else.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may be at a loss to explain why a friend or relative is acting so strangely but you know how illogical some people can be. Not everyone shares your ability to focus only on facts.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Hopefully you know how to keep a secret, because if you go blabbing about a friend's peccadilloes it will be you who ends up looking bad.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



"Hot dogs, get your hot dogs."
RICHARD SANICARA

WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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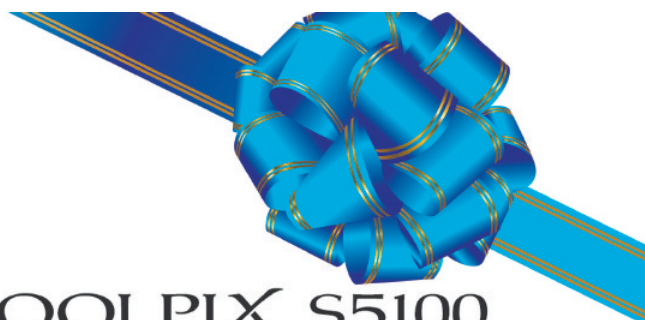
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CMOS Sensor

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CMOS Sensor

7.1X

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Optical
Zoom-NIKKOR
ED Glass Lens

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Resolution
Clear Colour
Display

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*Offer available December 15 to 24, 2010, while quantities last on the Xbox and/or Windows Phone 7 devices, for clients (new and renewal) who activate a Windows Phone 7 device on a 3 year term with a Clear Choice voice and data rate plan of \$50 or greater. TELUS, the TELUS logo, the future is friendly and telusmobility.com are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. Microsoft and Windows Phone are trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies. Xbox and Xbox 360 are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2010 TELUS.